Collection No. 500/36-37

~~VOL. II.~~

Land Revenue Secretariat.

**Council Section.**

GS 194-86/1 p. 6

**SUBJECT.** Report of Mr C. Subrahmanya Iyer Asst to Standi on 28.5.19 regarding proposal laying of the foundation stone of a Congress House to be in Bangalore city by Mahatma Gandhi

| PREVIOUS REFERENCES. | LATER REFERENCES. |
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WD189—GPB—500—25-8-19

The proposed laying of the foundation stone of a Congress House in Bangalore city by Mahatma Gandhi

27th May 1936. The Dewan instructed me to go to Nandi, see Mr. Mahadeva Desai & Mahatma Gandhi and communicate to them the following facts:-

Mr. S. K. Venkataranga Iyengar sought an interview of the Dewan on the 27th May 1936 regarding the laying of the foundation stone of a Congress House in Bangalore by Mahatma Gandhi. The Dewan feels that Mahatma Gandhi should not be a party to this. The Mahatma has come here now for the sake of health and some social work such as Harijan work. He has not come for any political work & he has stated so. If he or any of his party should take part in a formal political function of this sort, it will place the Government, His Highness, and the Dewan personally in an embarrassing situation. The Dewan has told the Resident that the Mahatma is coming here only on grounds of health. If the Mahatma should associate himself with

this political function, it will appear as if the object of his visit was different from what it was stated to be.

The local Congress movement is avowedly political. Its actions and criticisms are directed against the Government, and any act of the Mahatma in Mysore at present to promote its cause is likely to be misinterpreted.

The Dewan will be glad if Mahatma Gandhi desists from leading his name to the proposed laying of the foundation stone, and excuses himself.

It is also not desirable that Mr. Vallabhai Patel should connect himself with this function as he has also come here with the object of recouping his health.

The persons in the Congress party here are not really leaders of men of substance, & they are only trying to exploit the situation. The Mahatma should not allow them to exploit his presence in the state or support or encourage their activities.

C.C.

27/5/1936.

28th May 1936.

I went to Nandi on the 28th morning and after seeing Mahatma Gandhi, Sirdar Vallabhai Patel and Mr. Mahadev Desai, returned the same afternoon.

I first saw Mr Mahadev Desai, and then he took me to Mahatma Gandhi. At my interview with Mahatma Gandhi, Sirdar Patel and Mr. Desai were also present. I communicated to Mahatma Gandhi all the facts and explained the situation. What he said was to the following effect :—

"When the situation is easy. They will not get a site, they will not be able to collect funds, & there will be no question of laying any foundation stone. I told them definitely that I would not lay the foundation stone as I have resigned from taking part in politics for some more time & said that it will be considered if Vallabhai could do it.

It is true that the political aims of the Congress are opposed to the present system of government, but there are certain activities of the Congress to which nobody could take objection such as social work removal of untouchability etc.

The Bangalore people came to me and said that the proposed building would be a sort of club or home where all people could meet, and that people like me when they came to Bangalore could be put up in it. They said the Municipality had granted a site, there was agreement all round; that the Government will have no objection and that Government officers will be invited to the function. This is the worst of these people who do not represent accurately. The policy of the Congress is not to interfere with the politics of the States. We cannot get along in opposition to the State.

It is a fact we have come for reasons of health and we do not want to cause any embarrassing situation. As this proposal has not the support of the Government, there is no question of myself or any of my party taking part in it.

M. Patel also interposed and said — whether on this occasion or on any other occasion even though we are not guests of the Government, we will not take part in such a function if the Government looks askance at it."

The conversation then turned on

& other matters of topical interest.

I have reported the details of the interview to the Diwan in person today.

C.I.
11/28/5/36.

29-5-36

Submitted

Mr. T. K. Venkatarangaiya Pantulu says Mr. Gandhi has agreed to lay the foundation stone of a Congress House to be built in City. Mr. Bhargava, desires to consult the leaders in regard to some alternative site suggested as this matter is very urgent. He prays for a few minutes interview if convenient.

C
5/5